

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3623

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, JA

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER PLANS TO VISIT U.S.

REF: STATE 61126

SUMMARY: DURING AMBASSADOR'S PRE-CONSULTATIONS MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA LATE MARCH 18, MINISTER REVIEWED GOJ DESIRE FOR EARLY TOP LEADERSHIP CONTACT WITH U.S. AND PRESENT STATE OF GOJ THINKING ABOUT TIMING POSSIBILITIES FROM TOKYO POINT OF VIEW. MIYAZAWA IDENTIFIED LATE JULY-EARLY AUGUST AS VIRTUALLY ONLY FEASIBLE TIME FOR MIKI VISIT AND ASKED WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER TO MEET SECRETARY DURING APRIL 9-15 PERIOD. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR HODGSON MARCH 18 CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA TO TOUCH BASE BEFORE DEPARTING FOR WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTIONS, MIYAZAWA REVIEWED THEIR VIEW OF POSSIBILITIES FOR MIKI-MIYAZAWA VISITS TO WASHINGTON THIS YEAR, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FIXED DATES FOR THE EMPEROR'S VISIT IN OCTOBER.

2. MIYAZAWA SAID HE HAD GONE OVER THIS QUESTION WITH PRIME MINISTER EARLIER MARCH 18. TIMING OF HIGH LEVEL TRAVEL IS IN FIRST PLACE DEPENDENT ON PRESENT LIKELIHOOD THAT DIET SESSION WILL BE EXTENDED
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AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEYOND NORMAL MAY 25 TERMINATION DATE, POSSIBLY

TWO MONTHS TO JULY 25. PROBABILITY OF DIET EXTENSION STEMS FROM ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO ACHIEVE RATIFICATION OF PRC PEACE TREATY AND NPT IF POSSIBLE; GOVERNMENT HAS MAJORITY IN LOWER HOUSE, BUT ONLY SHAKY CONTROL OF UPPER HOUSE. IF LOWER HOUSE PASSES A TREATY, HOWEVER, IT BECOMES LAW ONE MONTH LATER REGARDLESS OF WHETHER UPPER HOUSE ACTS OR NOT.

3. SECOND FACTOR AFFECTING VISIT TIMING IS PRIME MINISTER'S DECISION ABOUT DISSOLUTION OF LOWER HOUSE AND CALL FOR GENERAL ELECTION. MIKI HAS NOT YET MADE UP HIS MIND ABOUT THIS, BUT MIYAZAWA SAID HIS PERSONAL GUESS IS THAT IT PROBABLY WILL OCCUR IN MID-OCTOBER TO EARLY NOVEMBER TIME FRAME. WITH THESE TWO MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, IT APPEARS TO MIKI AND MIYAZAWA THAT IF MIKI CANNOT ARRANGE A VISIT TO WASHINGTON SOMETIME TOWARD THE END OF JULY OR EARLY AUGUST, HE WILL BE UNABLE TO MAKE VISIT UNTIL SUMMER 1976. MIYAZAWA SAID MIKI HAS NOT MADE UP HIS MIND; HE WANTS TO GO AT RIGHT TIME, BUT HE DESIRES MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT THIS YEAR.

4. IN RESPONSE TO MIYAZAWA'S REQUEST FOR INFORMAL ADVICE AS TO WASHINGTON PROSPECTS, AMBASSADOR SAID HE DID NOT HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT PRESIDENT'S PROJECTED SCHEDULE AND OTHER FACTORS. HE ASSURED FOREIGN MINISTER THAT, AS PRESIDENT FORD STATED DURING HIS VISIT TO JAPAN LAST FALL, THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY WELCOMES PERSONAL CONSULTATIONS. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED TO SOUND OUT USG AND PROVIDE MINISTER WITH RESPONSE TO HIS QUERY. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED MIYAZAWA HIS VIEW OF THE PURPOSE OF A MIKI VISIT, WHETHER GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONAL CONTACT OR EMPHASIZING A PARTICULAR PROBLEM OR OBJECTIVE. MIYAZAWA INDICATED THAT HE SAW THE VISIT AS PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO GET ACQUAINTED, ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT SOME IN GOJ AND PARTY CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE THAT PRIME MINISTER PRECEDE THE EMPEROR, TO PAVE THE WAY IN SOME SENSE. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT CARE WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN NOT RPT NOT TO LINK TWO VISITS, BECAUSE OF PROHIBITION ON INVOLVING EMPEROR EVEN INDIRECTLY POLITICAL ENTERPRISES.

5. MIYAZAWA THEN TURNED TO HIS OWN
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HOPE TO MEET WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. CONSIDERING HIS SCHEDULE, MINISTER SUGGESTED THAT EARLY APRIL APPEARED BEST TIME FOR HIM, PERHAPS ONLY TIME. FURTHER DISCUSSION REFINED THIS TO PERIOD OF APRIL 9-15. MIYAZAWA SAID HE WANTED IF POSSIBLE TO MEET THE SECRETARY BEFORE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES

AT MULTILATERAL MEETINGS LATER IN THE SPRING. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD DIFFICULTIES OF THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE AND WAS PERFECTLY WILLING TO MEET THE SECRETARY IN ANY APPROPRIATE CAPITAL THAT WOULD SUIT THE SECRETARY'S CONVENIENCE, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD MUCH PREFER TO MEET IN WASHINGTON. IF NO OTHER ARRANGEMENT POSSIBLE, MIYAZAWA SAID HE WAS OF COURSE WILLING TO TRAVEL A DAY OR SO EARLY TO ANY MULTILATERAL MEETINGS THAT MIGHT OFFER OPPORTUNITY TO SIT DOWN WITH THE SECRETARY BEFOREHAND.

6. AMBASSADOR HODGSON PROMISED TO TRY TO GET A TENTATIVE INDICATION OF WASHINGTON POSSIBILITIES DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT NEXT WEEK.

7. LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN ACTIVE ON SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE U.S. VISITS BY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER DURING PAST FEW DAYS. FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCES INSIST THE MINISTRY HAS IN NO WAY FED THESE STORIES AND IS IN FACT EMBARRRESSED. THEY ATTRIBUTE THE COVERAGE TO COMPLETELY UNAUTHORIZED SPECULATION BY REPORTERS SWEEPING UP FRAGMENTARY RUMORS FROM LOWER LEVELS. FIRST AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT, BY FOREIGN MINISTER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR MARCH 18, HOWEVERR, ALSO RESULTED IN FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT OF MIYAZAWA'S HOPE TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN APRIL. INTENSE INTEREST OF PRESS IN THESE VISITS WAS EXPLAINED BY SEVERAL EMBASSY CONTACTS IN PRESS AS ARISING FROM RACE AMONG REPORTERS AND OBSERVERS TO BE THE FIRST TO DEVINE WHEN MIKI MAY DISSOLVE THE HOUSE AND CALL GENERAL ELECTIONS, WHICH AS MIYAZAWA NOTED IS RELATED TO ANY PLANS FOR A U.S. VISIT.
HODGSON

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